



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH
NOVEMBER 2003

WHEREAS, every child deserves a loving, nurturing, and permanent home. Today, many children in the care of North Dakota agencies are waiting for such a home. Adoption gives these children a brighter future and brings great joy to their adoptive families; and

WHEREAS, in North Dakota, 328 adoptions took place from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002. Of these, 183 were adoptions of children by their step-parent; 13 were adoptions of foreign born children; 53 were adoptions of healthy infants and 79 were adoptions of children with special needs; and

WHEREAS, approximately 27 children in North Dakota are currently waiting for an adoptive family. Many others are going through the process that will make them a permanent member of a family. Nearly all of these children have special needs that require extra patience and support to help them overcome previous hardships; and

WHEREAS, children waiting for adoptive parents and the families who adopt these children deserve community and public agency support to sustain their adoptions; and

WHEREAS, we seek to build an awareness of changes and issues in adoption, and to focus attention on those children who live in the shadow of an uncertain future while they await permanent families.

TOGETHER, let us promote the value of family by supporting the children in need of a permanent home. Through adoption, North Dakotans can forever change not only a child's life but also their own. By providing children in need with the opportunity to grow and succeed through adoption, we can help them become confident, compassionate, and successful members of society.

NOW THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim November 2003 as **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota, and I encourage communities, businesses, groups, schools, faith based organizations and families to honor the waiting children of North Dakota in hopes of securing a permanent, loving family for each and every child regardless of race, age, gender, health, emotional or behavioral conditions and past circumstances.

/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

Attest:

/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State